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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1712

Navy Case No. 82,222

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Usman A.K. Sorathia

Serial No. 09/822,308

Filed: March 29, 2001

For: FIREPROOF PROTECTION INTEGRATING: Confirmation No. 7684
FABRICATION SYSTEM FOR COMPOSITE
STRUCTURES

RECEIVED

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TC 1700

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: Group Art Unit: 1712

: Examiner: Michael J. Feely

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Final Office action dated April 9, 2003, amendment of the above application is proposed as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1-16 (cancelled).

17. (Currently amended). In a process for protective fabrication of a composite structure to be exposed to seawater environments, the improvement residing in a sequence of steps including performance in sequential order the following steps of: a) forming a barrier; b) introducing a fire resisting agent into the barrier after said forming thereof; c) forming a substrate; and d) attaching the barrier to the substrate in underlying relation thereto before completing the fabrication of the composite structure; wherein said introducing of the fire resisting agent comprises: infusion into the barrier.